

Abstract

This invention relates to a process for preparing a low-odor
5 hydrogel-forming acrylic acid polymer, which comprises the steps
of: a) preparing a polymeric hydrogel by free-radically
polymerizing a monomer composition comprising at least 50% by
weight of acrylic acid in an aqueous polymerization medium and
converting said hydrogel into a particulate hydrogel or into
10 hydrogel-forming powder; and optionally b) treating said
particulate hydrogel or said hydrogel-forming powder with a
crosslinking substance which, actually or latently, contain at
least two functional groups capable of reacting with the carboxyl
groups on the addition polymer; characterized by the acrylic acid
15 used in step a) containing less than 400 ppm of acetic acid and
propionic acid. It further relates to the hydrogel-forming
addition polymers obtainable by the process and to their use.

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